

mained sterile. In the second, a chorea at its height, a diplococcus of granular, oval shape without a capsule was observed, staining with Gram, apparently identical with that described by M. Triboulet in cases of acute articular rheumatism.

It should be added that both the chorea patients upon whom the investigations were made, had had alternating attacks of chorea and acute rheumatism.

MITCHELL.

177. ON CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE CELLS OF THE VENTRAL HORNS AND OF THE NUCLEUS DORSALIS (CLARKII) IN EPIDEMIC CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS. Lewellys F. Barker (British Medical Journal, ii., 1897, p., 1839).

The author describes two kinds of alteration. First, slight changes in the cells of the anterior horns, such as occur from various poisons, and which he attributes to the toxæmia of the disease, viz.: (1) the disappearance of the stainable substance of Nissl from the dendrites or from portions of the dendrite or of a cell body; (2) the formation of nodular swellings of the dendrites, these swellings corresponding to pathological accumulations of the stainable substance; and (3) a tendency to disorganization of individual Nissl bodies, especially at the periphery of the cell.

Second, lesions not at all similar to the first, but practically identical with those which take place in the cell body of a neuron after an injury of the axon which belongs to it. These latter changes were found in the cells of the anterior horns and in those of Clarke's columns. The alterations in the anterior-horn cells are attributed to the involvement of the anterior nerve roots in the meningeal inflammation; those in the cells of Clarke's columns, not to an affection of the posterior roots, but to the damage done to the direct cerebellar tracts. The meningitis was particularly intense at this part of the periphery of the cord, and the fibres of this tract are supposed to be neuraxons of the cells of Clarke's columns.

PATRICK.

178. DIE COLLOIDENTARTUNG DES GEHIRNS (Colloid Degeneration of the Brain). A. Alzheimer (Archiv f. Psychiatrie, 30, 1898, p. 19).

The author describes two cases of colloid degeneration. The first occurred in a case of general paresis with optic atrophy and characteristic convulsive attacks. The sections showed leptomeningitis and pachymeningitis and chronic colloid degeneration of the large ganglion cells of the cortex.

A second case showed unilateral convulsions, loss of memory and stupor, and finally hemiplegia and coma.

The autopsy showed colloid degeneration of the convolutions of the right hemisphere and basal ganglia, with secondary softening in the basal ganglia and crura.

A chemical and micro-chemical study of the colloid substance in both cases showed the following characters. It is soluble when fresh in warm water; with picro-carmin, or with double staining with carmine and hæmatoxylin the colloid substance colors a decided red, especially in specimens hardened with bichromate. With Van Gieson's mixture colloid stains a light red, distinguishing it from hyaline substance. Eosin stains it deep red, and Rosin's mixture, which is to be specially recommended, stains colloid flesh red, nuclei bluish green, blood cells yellowish red and the rest of the tissue a light red. Weigert's fibrin staining methods also give good differential stains.

The best results were obtained with bichromate hardening. Alcohol is not good for colloid. The vessels were not affected in the degeneration. The paper is well illustrated and is a noteworthy con-

tribution to our knowledge of a type of tissue degeneration and an excellent discussion of the micro-chemical means we possess whereby one may differentiate the many closely allied forms. JELLIFFE.

CLINICAL NEUROLOGY.

179. TUMOR OF THE MENINGES IN THE REGION OF THE PITUITARY BODY PRESSING ON THE CHIASMA. J. W. Sterling (Annals of Ophthalmology, 6, 1897, p. 15).

The author reports a case of this character. The patient was a man forty-two years of age with total blindness of the left eye, and complete right hemianopsia of the right eye. There was a history of alcoholism, but none of syphilis. There was optic atrophy. Both knee-jerks were slightly exaggerated. No motor or sensory disturbances. Frequent flushings and perspiration of the head and back of the neck occurred. The further course of the case was very slow, six years elapsing before death. In about eighteen months he was totally blind. He became fat and flabby, always had a good appetite, and was greatly troubled with continuous sleepiness. The post-mortem examination revealed a tumor as large as a hen's egg growing from the meninges and pressing on the front of the chiasma. Microscopically it proved to be an endothelioma.

LESZYNSKY.

180. A CASE OF BULLET IN THE LEFT HEMISPHERE OF THE BRAIN SHOWN BY SKIAGRAPH. James Bell (Annals of Gynecology and Pediatrics, 10, 1897, p. 353).

A little girl, four and a half years old, accidentally discharged an English "Bulldog" revolver, one bullet entering her brain. The bullet entered the forehead over the centre of the left orbit, and rather less than half way from the margin of the orbit to the edge of the hairy scalp. She did not lose consciousness, nor show any signs of special suffering. She was sent to the General Hospital, where she was chloroformed, and an attempt to remove the foreign body was made. Four fragments of bone were removed from the brain substance—one of them from a depth of an inch and a quarter from the dura mater. Some dark blood clots and brain detritus escaped alongside of the forceps. The operation was attended with failure, as at each attempt to grasp the bullet with the open blades of a forceps it receded further into the cerebral substance. All efforts were finally abandoned. The wound was allowed to heal by drainage and granulation. The patient suffered no ill effects from the operation, and made a rapid recovery. The child since being discharged from the hospital never suffered from headache or any other brain symptom. She was always a bright child, but her parents consider her even brighter than before the accident.

In August, 1896 (the accident occurred in January, 1894), the little girl was skiagraphed by Professor Callender, of McGill University. The skiagraph distinctly showed the bullet in the brain. Plates accompany this report. ABRAHAM.

181. THE OCULAR MANIFESTATIONS OF INTRACRANIAL TUMOR. Martin (Lancet, July 10th, 1897, p. 81).

In an editorial discussion of the work of the author, based on an analysis of six hundred cases of intracranial tumor the Journal of the American Medical Association (September 4th, 1897) summarizes the results as follows. The distribution of the new growths was: Cerebellum, 138; motor area, 120; frontal area, 61; pons and medulla, 45;